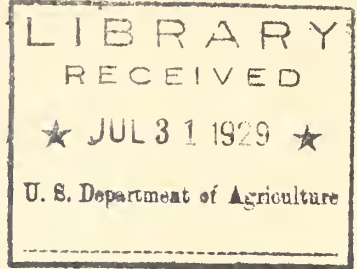


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## FEDERAL SAFEGUARDS FOR YOUR FOODS AND DRUGS.

A radio talk by Walter G. Campbell, Director of Regulatory Work, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through Station WRC and 30 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company on Thursday, July 18, 1929, at 2 p. m., E. S. T.

The United States Department of Agriculture is sometimes called the farmers' branch of the government. Primarily that is what it is. But it is also more than that. Work done to aid the farmer usually benefits the entire nation as well. The department's scientific work, for instance, helps not only the producer but the consumer, and all of us are consumers. When science makes two stalks of corn grow where one grew before everyone, directly or indirectly, is benefited.

No activity of the department affects all of the people more directly than the work of the regulatory administration. Regulatory is the term used to describe the duties of the Department of Agriculture in enforcement of 15 or more principal laws regulating various branches of trade and commerce. These laws concern the sale of food and drugs; quarantine of plants and animals, the marketing and slaughter of livestock, the grain trade, the cotton trade and so forth. All were created to serve and to protect both producers and consumers and all are administered to safeguard the best interests of the general public.

An illustration of the close relationship of the regulatory services to our everyday lives is the work of that part of the service which has to do with foods, drugs and insecticides. Enforcement of the food and drug laws directly affects every man, woman, and child in the country. In general, the aim of the regulations is to insure that the consumer gets just what he pays his money for. They also protect honest manufacturers and dealers, who are in the great majority, against competition from fraudulent, adulterated and misbranded commodities.

During the influenza epidemic last winter hundreds of shipments of drug products labeled as cures for the disease were seized and condemned. Many criminal prosecutions were started against manufacturers and shippers whose preparations were sold under false or extravagant claims. The department maintains a continuous supervision over interstate traffic in food and drug products. It collects and examines a large number of samples. When the examinations disclose adulteration or indicate that the goods are labeled in a misleading manner, steps are taken to remove the product from the market. It would be difficult to overestimate the value of this service to public health.

Of direct benefit to farmers are the regulations regarding insecticides and fungicides, which are intended to make sure that the preparations on the market will do what they claim to do. The loss to

agriculture from the use of ineffective treatments for plants and animals might easily become very great. Farmers have also suffered large losses of stock from the use of worthless preparations which have been sold as stock remedies. Enforcement of the food and drugs act has eliminated many of these worthless preparations and has brought about the more truthful labeling of others which were found to have some value.

Regulatory work is essentially a service to the community. So well is this recognized that the regulatory laws are practically never attacked in principle, though their details may occasionally be criticized. Their strongest supporter is the honest manufacturer or business man, who values the protection afforded against fraudulent or unethical competition.

Some of the most important activities of the regulatory service encounter practically no opposition. Take, for example, the work now being done to resist the ravages of the Mediterranean fruit fly. This fly, the world's worst fruit pest, is, as you know, a recent invader of the United States. That it did not gain entrance into this country years ago, by the way, is due to the strict regulations enforced by the plant quarantine workers, as it has long been a destructive pest in several other parts of the world. Immediately upon its discovery in Florida last April the plant quarantine office took measures to stamp it out and to prevent its spread. Since these regulations were issued no infested fruit is known to have left Florida. In carrying out these regulations it has been necessary so far to destroy more than half a million boxes of citrus fruits. But despite these heavy losses to farmers and dealers the most cordial aid has been given. It certainly says much for the intelligence and public spirit of the people in those sections that for the ultimate good of the country as a whole they accept without complaint the restrictions it is necessary to place on all shipments of oranges, grapefruit, peaches and vegetables. They realize that the losses sustained now are extremely small in comparison to those that would result if the fruit fly were to gain a foothold in other parts of the south and in the great fruit sections of the Pacific Coast.

The pink boll worm was discovered in eastern Texas in 1917 and in several different areas of Louisiana in 1919. As a result of an intensive campaign lasting several years this insect appears to have been exterminated completely from these areas and no trace of it has been seen there since 1921. While the worm still occurs along the Mexican border its extermination from Texas and Louisiana and the prevention of its spread has been of great value to cotton growers and has undoubtedly saved them serious losses.

Laws to prevent the spread of pests and diseases of livestock have been in force since 1884. In the main these laws, too, are loyally observed. They authorize the department to regulate the interstate movement of livestock so that the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, bovine tuberculosis, the cattle tick and other diseases and parasites may be checked.



Meat inspection is another important duty of the department. The meat inspection act guarantees to the public that all meat from cattle, sheep, goats and hogs shipped in interstate commerce is wholesome. No one would want to be deprived of this protection.

Another law of special importance to the livestock industry is the packers and stockyards act, designed primarily for the protection of the grower and shipper of livestock. It declares stockyards to be public utilities, and provides that charges for services may be regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture. Every individual trader or trading company operating in a public stockyards must be registered and bonded so that he is financially responsible. This virtually insures the farmer or other shipper against loss in case the buyer should be unable to meet his obligations. In practically all cases of this kind the bond has proved sufficient to pay all shippers the full amounts due them. The packers and stockyards administration also maintains a livestock inspection service at 51 principal markets throughout the country, which is aimed primarily to prevent the spread of disease.

I could go on indefinitely describing the regulatory functions entrusted to the department. There is, for example, the tea act which denies entry to adulterated or worthless teas. Under the import milk act, milk and cream may not be imported unless produced from healthy cattle and handled in a sanitary way. This is a recently enacted law which should particularly benefit the city populations within shipping distance of dairy regions beyond the United States boundaries. Under the grain standards act, the Secretary of Agriculture sets up standards under which grain may be bought and sold, and maintains a grain inspection service of incalculable benefit to both buyers and sellers of grain. This system permits trading in grain to be done with a high degree of certainty and confidence. Then there is the federal warehouse act which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to license warehousemen and to establish conditions under which crops may be stored in licensed warehouses. This act greatly facilitates crop financing.

So general is the disposition to cooperate with the department in its regulatory work that most violations of the laws result not from illegal intent but simply from ignorance as to what is required. Hence the department lays great stress upon educational methods in its law enforcement work. It takes an advisory rather than an arbitrary attitude and seeks to carry out the intentions of Congress in a spirit of cooperation with trade agencies.

I have not exhausted the list of regulatory activities, but those I have mentioned indicate the general character of the work. The regulatory laws are not class legislation in any sense. They exist for the protection of the entire public. It is in the public interest that they should be impartially and continuously enforced. As this becomes more and more realized the task of enforcement will be more and more simplified.

